

## PRAISE FROM ENGLAND'S GREAT CRITIC.

The Journal itself, taking heart of grace from a series of successes, boldly printed at the head of its editorial columns the Journal's motto—"While others talk the Journal acts." This appeared immediately after the announcement of the release of the fair heroine, Senorita Cisneros, by the enterprise of a Journal reporter. It was followed by an editorial entitled "The Journalism That Does Things," which succinctly expresses the aims and objects of a paper which has played so conspicuous a part in the recent history of New York.—William T. Stead, in his new book.

## JUSTICE WILLIAM J. GAYNOR.

He Signed the Order of Injunction Which Stopped the Unlawful Surrender of Streets to the Trolley Lines.



not get out an injunction to restrain public officials when it appears that such act is not only contrary to public policy and interest, but a newspaper performs a public service. It is to be commended.

I have always noticed that a blast from the London Times against the British Empire, I do not see why our American newspapers should not be both pronounced in words and vigorous in action, using every means within their power and the law to preserve the rights of the public.

I do not believe in journalism that attacks private character, but I do think it eminently the province of a newspaper to expose wrongs of a public character and to do all it can to set them right.

A really independent and fearless journal of force and power is truly a magnificent spectacle.

**Hartov S. Weeks, former Assistant District Attorney.**—The power and widespread influence of a great newspaper early with them corresponds to responsibility and duty to the public. In no way can that responsibility be discharged and that duty so advantageously performed than by an effort to protect the rights of the people from any improper grant of public franchises or the improper use of such franchises after they have been granted.

In my opinion, therefore, the action taken by the Journal in calling upon the public to investigate carefully and pass judgment upon the propriety of certain recent acts of municipal officials is deserving of the highest commendation.

If the acts of which a judicial investigation is demanded are legal and proper, no harm can come from the proceeding. If on the other hand, a wrong has been committed, the people will reap the benefit of a proceeding which preserves and enforces the rights of the public. What is everybody's business is everybody's business. While others talk and criticize, it seems right to let the Journal to act and accomplish.

**James C. Carter, Injunctions may or may not be good things. As to whether the province of a newspaper to get out injunctions, or whether such procedure on the part of a newspaper is desirable, I cannot say. I cannot answer such a general question and cannot now look into the merits of any particular case.**

**John P. McIntyre, former Assistant District Attorney.**—I applaud the Journal for its public-spirited policy declared on so many occasions. There is everything to commend and nothing to criticize in the course that the Journal pursues in the matter of safeguarding public interests, or when those interests are imperiled.

It is eminently proper for a newspaper to apply for an injunction, since the newspaper, in recent times, thanks to the initiative of the Journal itself, has become a remarkable force, actually a sort of quasi-public institution.

There is only one way by which the general public can become informed of the misdoings of public officials and individuals, and that is through the newspaper. The public consequently looks to the newspaper to keep them so informed, and by reason of this trust on the part of the public, it seems right that the newspaper should go a step further, as the Journal does, and champion their cause, not only with words, but with acts.

Newspapers are better enabled by reason of the peculiar intelligence that surrounds them, to ascertain the presence of corrupt motives in the disposal of valuable franchises without proper consideration. It has become the duty of a newspaper when put in possession of facts which would indicate a violation of public rights on the part of a public official to prevent the doing of an act which would result in the injury to the people.

If it had not been for newspapers in recent years, the maladministration of officials, both State and Federal, as well as city and county, would never have been known. Mr. Stead hits the nail on the head when he commends the Journal specifically for this new and admirable phase of American journalism. I wish the Journal continued in its work.

**George Gordon Battle, former Assistant District Attorney.**—In my opinion, it is eminently proper for a great newspaper, which is in effect a public institution, and has for some of its principal objects the advancement of public interests and the protection of public rights, should use its great power to set in motion the machinery of the law to restrain and prevent the waste of the public money and the public property by the hasty and corrupt granting of public franchises of immense value.

The law gives such a right to every taxpayer and it is entirely proper and appropriate that a great journal, representing the entire body of taxpayers, should exercise this right.

Furthermore, such action on the part of a newspaper serves to call public attention to the fact that the public property is being wasted without adequate return, and brings to bear upon the Com. B. or the Board of Aldermen who are about to grant such franchises the influence of aroused public opinion.

In my judgment the action of the Journal in matters of this kind deserves the highest commendation, and ought to commend the gratitude of all good citizens.

## JOURNALISM

## MEN OF ACTION IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE HEARTILY INDOOR

**Foster L. Packus, District Attorney Kings County.**—This is a function of a newspaper which is incumbent in the administration of public affairs and one which I hope will be continued. In an office like my own, for example, the ends of justice are often best served through the efforts of newspapers in running down criminals and exposing all the details of their crimes.

The newspaper has a double motive in all this. It does what it does because of the credit which will attach to it for printing the news as well as because of its desire to punish criminals of the law.

And that is where the important part played by the newspaper in affairs is emphasized. The private citizen in such a case will generally refuse to act unless he thinks there is something in it for himself. Hence the failure of justice in so many cases. The newspaper, on the other hand, is ever impelled to act through motives of self-interest, which never ceases to be imperative.

So it comes to pass that the newspaper is the handiest servant of the public in all the countless interests of each day. In my judgment there is no reason why it should not go a step further, and instead of merely leading up to action on the part of others, who may be slow of unspurring, undertake and carry through such action itself. The Journal should continue to persist in working out the salvation of itself and the public on the present lines.

**Justice William W. Goodrich, of the Supreme Court.**—There can be no doubt of the right of a newspaper to inaugurate proceedings in the courts for the public weal. Nobody has ever called that right in question. Nobody can only be one opinion as to the sound results which are in most instances, bound to attend the exercise of this inherent and hitherto generally neglected function of a newspaper.

In the Golden Square matter, for example, the Journal performed invaluable service to the community by the exercise of the active powers which every individual is entitled to exercise, so long as he does not invade the rights of his neighbors.

## LABOR LEADERS ADD ENTHUSIASTIC PRAISE.

Labor leaders who were seen yesterday had nothing but words of praise for the journalism which acts instead of urging others to act. The following are the opinions of representative labor men:

**William J. O'Brien, president of the Board of Walking Delegates of the Building Trades.**—I am heartily in accord with the Journal in the stand it has taken on matters of public importance. The way in which it has called a halt in the granting by the Brooklyn Board of Aldermen of valuable franchises without adequate compensation to the city is deserving of all praise. I lived in Brooklyn up to recently, and know what the people have to stand in that overtaxed city. The Journal has proved, by several brilliant achievements, not the least of which was the rescue of Miss Cisneros from the horrors of a Cuban prison, what a great newspaper can do.

**William A. Perrine, delegate of the Iron Molders' Union.**—As a Brooklynite, I feel thankful with many others for what the Journal is doing to stop the trolley grab. I hope the injunction will be made permanent, and that the Journal will pursue the same fight against the granting of valuable franchises without compensation to the Flatbush Gas Company and the Municipal Electric Light Company.

**George H. Warner, delegate of the International Machinists' Union.**—I believe in newspaper enterprise like that of the Journal, which seeks to conserve the interests of the people. Its prompt action in stopping a trolley corporation from grabbing valuable franchises for a merely nominal compensation is a good piece of work, and I hope that the injunction may be made permanent. The fight the Journal has started against practically giving away franchises of great value to a gaslight company and an electric lighting company is an appropriate one for a newspaper of its great influence and circulation.

**James Miller, delegate of the Elevator Constructors' Union.**—The Journal acts with other papers courageously. It has established a useful precedent in taking the bull by the horns and acting against corporations by taking the initiative itself. Such achievements as the rescue of Miss Cisneros and the securing of a preliminary injunction restraining the Brooklyn Board of Aldermen from virtually giving away a valuable trolley franchise mark a new era in journalism.

**John S. Henry, Recording Secretary, Central Labor Union.**—I think the Journal has established a valuable precedent in taking measures itself to prevent corporations from grabbing valuable franchises for next to nothing. It has shown that a great newspaper by holding up the facts to the public and acting



## THE JOURNAL AGAIN TH

## BROOKLYN MERCHANT

**A. D. MATTHEWS, of the firm of Matthews & Sons, Fulton and Livingston streets and Gallatin place.**

I believe the Journal has done a splendid as well as enterprising piece of work in enjoining the Board of Aldermen from throwing away such a valuable franchise as that in question. Street railway franchises are worth their weight in gold figuratively speaking. When they are about to be given to a private corporation or company of private individuals the public should be fully informed as to the nature of the proposed transfer. The municipality is entitled to a return in the form of income or privileges for the granting of such a boon. When the local legislative body undertakes to traffic in the rights and properties of the people the greatest care should be taken to see that the people are not imposed upon. Such, however, I regret to say, is not always the case. As a matter of fact, the people seldom, if ever, get what is legitimately coming to them in trades of this kind. The old and present system of perpetual franchise is wrong. There should be a halt to everything. The Journal's injunction may, and I trust will, prevent a great public injustice. We have a new charter and it is not too long to wait until January to grant this franchise if it is the will of the people under the law that goes into effect with the new year.

**ABRAHAM ABRAHAM, head of firm of Abraham & Straus, Fulton and Livingston streets and Gallatin place.**

I think I voice the sentiments of the community, and I am certain that I echo the opinions of my friends, when I say that the work of the Journal in enjoining the Board of Aldermen from giving away such a valuable franchise as the one they rushed through at their meeting the other day is deserving of the highest praise. The Journal acted while others talked. In cases of this kind there is nothing like quick and decisive action. Howling and railing and all that sort of thing is all right in its way and place, but when you come right

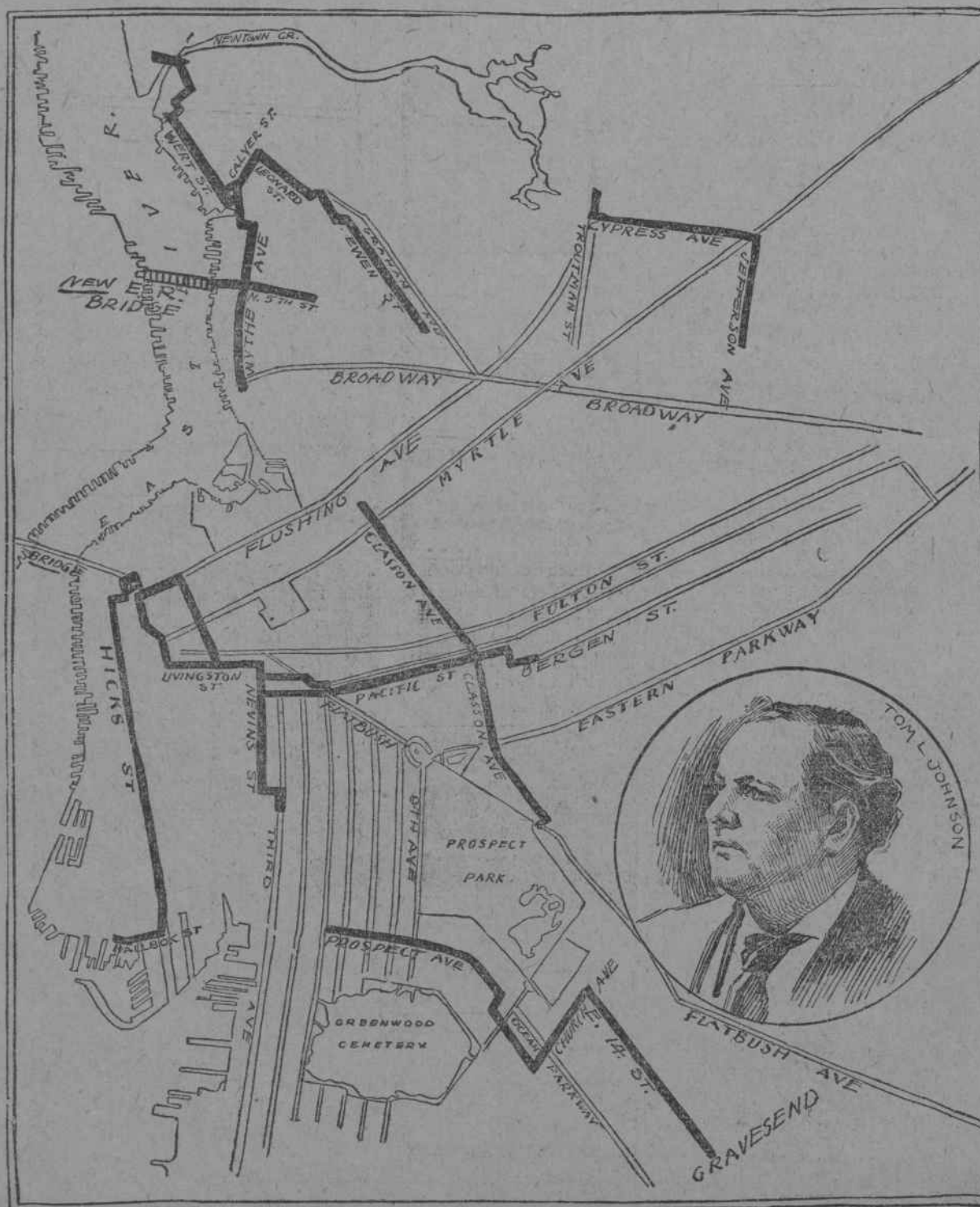
down to actual results it is the man who acts and not the man who dreams and talks that accomplishes something. If the Journal had not anticipated certain taxpayers of Brooklyn, the Board of Aldermen would have been enjoying by private individuals instead of a great paper. So you see that the Journal was actually carrying out the wishes of a great number of silent though anxious members of this community.

**JOSEPH H. BAULAND, President Bauland Co. Dept. Store, 503 Fulton street.**

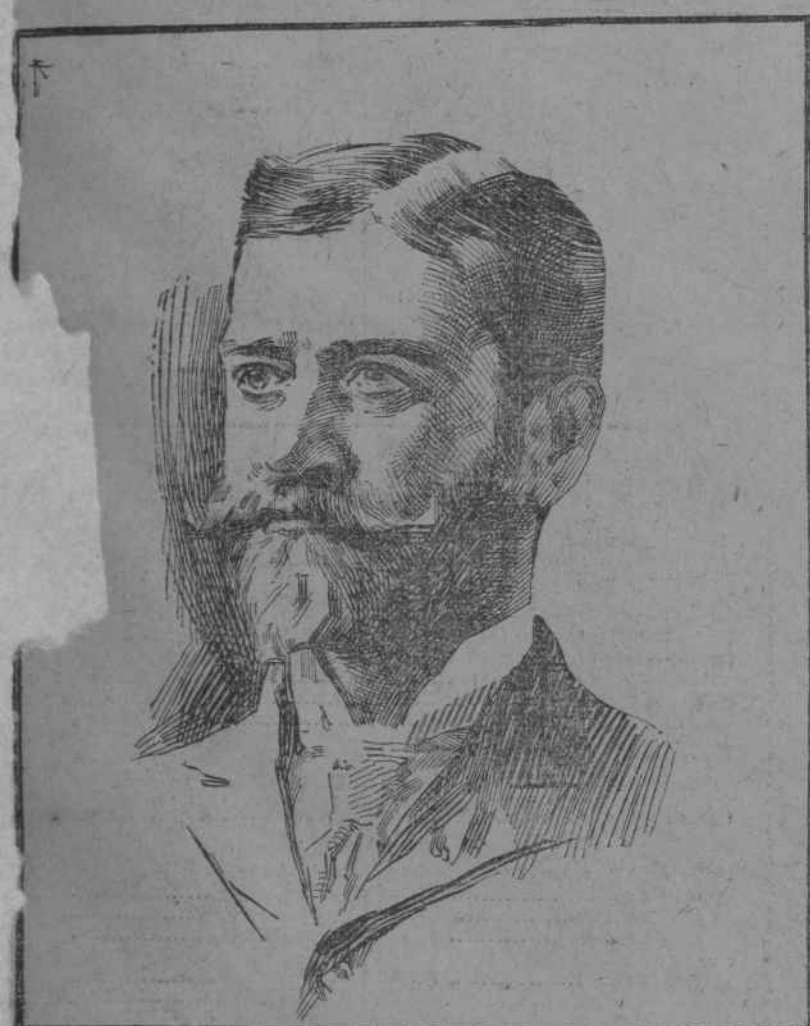
From what I can understand I believe that this franchise was rushed through the Board of Aldermen a bit hastily. Privileges worth such a great sum of money as the experts say this franchise is should be guarded dearly by the people and their public servants. If the new charter provides for the abolition of the old-time perpetual franchise, and I understand it does, why then let the term of possession be curtailed with all reason. Yes; people should pay for such great accommodations as street railway and lighting privileges. In fighting to uphold the rights of the people the Journal is most certainly fulfilling the highest aims of a great newspaper.

**FRANK PHILLIPS, Merchant Tailor, Corner Bridge and Fulton Streets.**

The Journal did the public a great service in getting out the injunction preventing the Board of Aldermen from giving away a franchise which experts declare to be worth \$10,000,000. When great privileges of this nature are to be given away or disposed of their disposition should be accompanied by the utmost publicity. I do not say that anything was wrong in the present instance, but I do maintain that the rapidity with which it was rushed through the Board of Aldermen looked very bad. The income from public privileges should not go to an individual or combination of individuals; it should go to the public at large. By that I mean that it should be turned into the general coffers of the municipality. Many years ago the people were afforded an object lesson that I thought they would never forget. I refer to the big street railway franchise grab



STREETS SAVED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE JOURNAL.



MAYOR FREDERICK W. WURSTER.

He Has It in His Power to Stop the Trolley Line Grab by Vetoing the Act of the Brooklyn Aldermen.